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25X1A

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Airfield of ZERBST

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letter of 13 October 1972 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
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NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

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DEA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DEA Memo, 4 Apr 77Date: 21 MAY 1978 By: 24

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1. Forty to fifty aircraft were parked outside the hangars of the ZERBST (M 52/D 98) airfield. Others may have been in the hangars. Aircraft without propellers were parked in front of the hangar, details of which could not be observed. Two closed motor vehicles and a radio truck were at the take-off point at the middle of the runway. Six fighters were parked nearby (two-seater, low-wing monoplane, radial engine, three-bladed propeller, retractable landing gear, no auxiliary tanks, blue paint, [REDACTED]). Ten 25X1C biplanes were also observed at the field.
2. The fighters and biplanes did individual flying from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., during intermittent light showers.
3. A second radio truck, equipped with a 30-foot braced antenna, was located north of the field. Three antiaircraft guns of not more than 50-mm caliber were observed at the northwestern edge of the airfield, covered with tarpaulins. A covered apparatus about 3 feet high, presumably a data computer, was about 330 feet east of the antiaircraft guns. About 30 Soviet soldiers, wearing black-bordered red epaulets, were standing near the guns. Some of these soldiers had crossed gun barrels on their epaulets.
4. The road running along the southern edge of the field was blocked to all traffic by a turnpike. Passenger car [REDACTED] was observed leaving the field.

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Comment:

a. Report confirmed the previously assumed occupation of the ZERBST airfield by fighters. Two fighter regiments have been assumed to be located in ZERBST; the report makes it seem probable that aircraft of Yak-11 type are also stationed at the field.

b. The presence of aircraft without propellers, presumably jet aircraft, was reported for the first time. Noteworthy in this connection is the report by another source, according to which a new formation equipped with an aircraft type not previously observed in ZERBST, arrived at the field at the end of July 1949.

1 Annex: Airfield of ZERBST.

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